(e) In addition to putting in place a comprehensive legislative framework for production and conservation of environment, forests and wildlife, the Government has undertaken a number of programmes such as those for conservation of bio-diversity, rivers, lakes, mangroves and coral reefs, integrated afforestation and Eco-development programmes, etc.

Poisonous effect of plastic bags on edible items

661. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a study about the poisonous effect of plastic bags on packing of cereals like wheat and rice and also packing of sugar; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) At present, the Government does not propose to take up a study about the poisonous effects of plastic bags used in packing of cereals and sugar. The use of plastic bags in packing of cereals and sugar is goverened by the following specification of the Bureau of Indian Standards:

IS : 14887 Textiles—High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Polypropylene (PP) woven sacks for Packing 50 Kg/25 Kg Foodgrains— Specification.

IS : 14968 Textiles—High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) woven sacks for Packing 50 Kg/25 Kg sugar—Specification.

IS : 10910 Specifications of Polypropylene and its co-polymers for safe use in contact with foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and drinking water.

IS : 10146 Specification of Polythylene for safe use in contact with foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and drinking water.

In addition to the above, following specifications have also been prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards for packaging of foodstuffs:

IS : 10171 Guide on suitability of Plastics for food packaging.

IS : 9833 List of pigments and colorants for use in plastics in contact with foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and drinking water.